

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 24, 1999 (BOS Mtg. 12/15/99)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator *DM*

SUBJECT: Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Program – FY2000-01 through FY2005-06

ISSUE

Every year the County must review and adopt a priority listing for the use of the secondary road improvement funds allocated to York County over the next six years. The Code of Virginia requires that public comment be solicited through a duly advertised public hearing jointly conducted by the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Following the public hearing, the Board recommends a priority listing to VDOT. The Code of Virginia also requires that the Planning Commission find that public improvements, including roads, be in conformance with the County's Comprehensive Plan before public funds are expended on such improvements.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. The six-year funding window allows projects to be prioritized such that engineering and right-of-way acquisition can proceed in advance of construction funding. In this manner, projects move through the program in a logical pattern that provides the often long lead times necessary to undertake significant improvements.

Over the six-year funding period, VDOT estimates that slightly more than \$13 million will be available for improvements to the County's secondary road system. Annual allocations are projected to be between \$2.0 and \$2.5 million.

2. The program proposed for the next six years resulted from discussions between County and VDOT staff, with direction provided by the Board at a work-session on September 22. Almost identical to the plan adopted last year, the proposed plan includes fourteen projects, thirteen of which have been carried over from last year's program. Three projects from last year's plan have been completed or are under way and therefore are not included in this year's plan. They include the reconstruction of Grafton Drive, the intersection improvements at Route 17 and Wolftrap Road, and the acquisition of the Yorktown trolley. No new projects have been added; however, the realignment and reconstruction of Burts Road has been divided into three separate projects as required by VDOT. In addition, at the September 22 work session, the Board changed the scope of the Allens Mill Road project in response to concerns raised by many of the residents along that roadway. Rather than widen the shoulders along the entire length of the roadway, the proposed plan calls for drainage improvements and a spot safety improvement at one of the sharper curves.

3. The York County Transportation Safety Commission reviewed the proposed project listing at its regular meeting on September 13 and voted at its November 8 meeting to recommend adding Newman Road (Route 646) to the list. This road was deleted from the plan last year because of its relatively high cost (\$2.3 million) and relatively low traffic volumes, and, for those reasons, I do not recommend reinstatement of this project.

As the Board will recall, the Newman Road project was specifically discussed at the September 22 work-session, and the Board elected not to include it in the secondary road plan. VDOT has indicated that Newman Road will be evaluated for possible spot safety improvements.

4. VDOT advised staff during the review of the proposed plan that the resolution to be adopted by the Board must reference the VDOT "Secondary System Construction Program" document, which is attached. Due to technical problems, VDOT was unable to provide staff with the document until November 23rd. As a result, staff was unable to complete preparation of the proposed plan for consideration by the Board in November, as would normally have been the schedule.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

At its regular meeting on October 13, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing at which two citizens spoke. The first speaker, Mr. Raymond Basley, is a resident of James City County and has been a member of the York County Transportation Safety Commission since 1990. He urged the Planning Commission to recommend reinstatement of the Newman Road project on the basis of safety concerns. The second speaker, Mr. James McCormick, resides in Settler's Crossing adjacent to the proposed Fort Eustis Boulevard extension and spoke in opposition to that project, citing environmental concerns. After discussing Newman Road, the Planning Commission voted unanimously (6:0, Semmes absent) to recommend approval of the plan as proposed by staff (without Newman Road). In doing so, however, the Commission emphasized its desire that the staff work closely with VDOT to identify and implement spot improvements to Newman Road. In recommending approval of the proposed plan, the Planning Commission also certified that all of the projects in the proposed secondary road plan are in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, as required by the Code of Virginia.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Board adopt the priority rankings contained in proposed Resolution R99-196.

Baldwin/3495

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Attachments:

- Excerpts from unapproved Planning Commission minutes of October 12, 1999
- Transportation Safety Commission Resolution No. TSC99-2(R)
- VDOT "Secondary System Construction Program"
- Six-Year Secondary Road Construction Plan Comparison and Status Summary
- Maps of proposed projects
- Proposed Resolution R99-196

Copy to: Quintin D. Elliott, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation